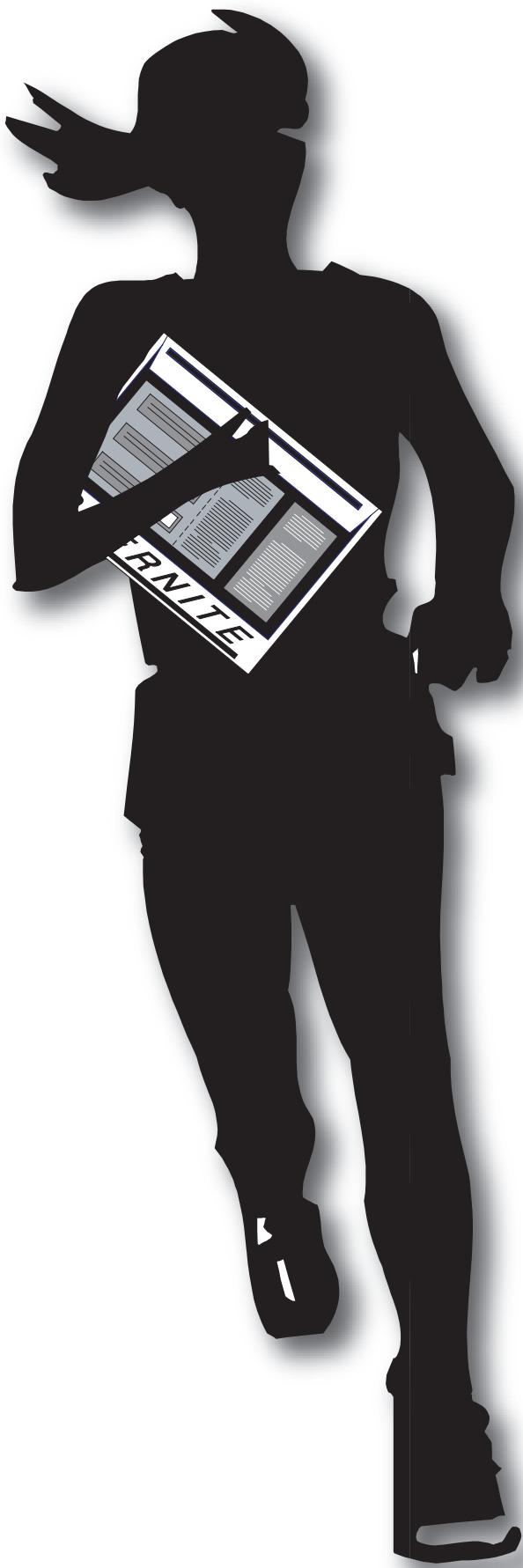


Medford's Messenger

Spring 2010



Medford District



BLM



Medford's Messenger

a publication of

**Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office**

Spring 2010

Dear Public Land User:

The purpose of the Medford's Messenger is to keep you informed of ongoing and proposed activities on the Medford District. It contains listings of projects, by resource area, that have been completed recently and identifies newly proposed projects. More importantly, we are seeking ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our multiple-use management programs.

Your comments, opinions, and suggestions are appreciated and very important to us. They help us make informed decisions, sound land management actions and implement better projects. Our intent is to increase the public's awareness of BLM issues, activities and opportunities.

This planning update has been organized to give you a brief description of activities occurring in several programs, as well as descriptions of new projects being considered by the district. Additional information can be obtained from the people listed in the descriptions. These contact people are familiar with their projects and are able to answer questions and provide more details on the projects. They are interested in receiving information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas.

Special Notice: To better conserve resources and begin transitioning to a new national BLM planning process, we have changed to electronic availability of the Medford Messenger. It will be available on a quarterly basis throughout the year at this website. <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php> A paper copy will be available at libraries in Medford and Grants Pass, and at the Medford District BLM Offices in Medford and Grants Pass. If you wish to receive a paper update, please confirm your address in written correspondence to our office (address below).

Our practice is to make comments on projects available for public review, including names and home addresses of respondents. Unless you specifically request us to withhold your name and address, it will be made available to the public on request.

We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this Planning Update including how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

Thank you for your continued interest in BLM's management of your Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this Planning Update, stop by the office or call us at 541-618-2200.

Sincerely,



Timothy B. Reuwsaat
Medford District Manager
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504

National Environmental Policy Act Analysis and Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in any of four ways: categorical exclusions, administrative determinations, environmental assessments, or environmental impact statements.

1. A *categorical exclusion* is used when it has been determined that some types of proposed activities do not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. Departmental policy and the Council of Environmental Quality regulations require that categorical actions be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine whether any of the extraordinary circumstances apply. In addition, no public notice of a federal agency's use of a categorical exclusion is required.

Certain activities within the BLM's forestry program have been categorically excluded from preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under NEPA. Specifically, Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR 1508.4 state that:

“Categorical exclusion’ means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations (Sec.1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.... Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect.”

In implementation of the NEPA regulations, the BLM has developed categorical exclusions for certain silvicultural activities, such as reforestation, pre-commercial treatments, brush control, sample tree falling, salvage, commercial thinning, and hazardous fuels reduction of limited acres. In developing categorical exclusions, the BLM demonstrated through rulemaking procedures how these actions do not typically result in significant environmental effects and set forth the methodology and criteria used to define the categories of actions. These rulemaking procedures included extensive public involvement and input, and CEQ review, regarding appropriate limits on the use of the categorical exclusion to assure that any categorically excluded action would remain within the effects of actions covered in the analysis for the rulemaking.

As such, in deciding whether to proceed with such actions, the BLM will review their particular conditions to ensure that no extraordinary circumstances exist, as listed in the Department of the Interior's NEPA Manual at 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. The Medford District/Resource areas maintain on site NEPA registers that list on going actions, and seek information from the

public as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist for any of these ongoing actions that are categorically excluded. An “extraordinary” circumstance is one that could have significant environmental effects beyond the “ordinary” circumstances already described and considered as applicable to the excluded actions in the rulemaking procedure. These categorically excluded actions, by regulation, do not require the documentation necessary for an EA or EIS. The public was also provided a formal opportunity to participate in the agency’s review and approval of these categorically excluded activities. Given this context, the BLM may choose to proceed with these actions as part of the ordinary course of business in managing forest land with the posting of a notice of decision on the District internet site. This notice would advise the public of the formal administrative review process for these individual actions available under 43 CFR 4.450. Depending on circumstances, however, the BLM may invoke, by publishing a notice in a local newspaper of record, the administrative review process under 43 CFR 5003 for certain individual forest management actions. Categorical exclusions posted on the website will have their individual administrative remedy process contained in the document.

If you are interested in any of these types of actions, more information can be obtained from our website (www.blm.gov/or) or by contacting the Medford District office. We can give you information on current projects.

2. An *administrative determination* is a determination by BLM that NEPA documentation previously prepared by the BLM fully covers a proposed action and no additional analysis is need. This procedure is often used in conjunction with a plan conformance determination. If an action is fully in conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in the RMP/FEIS, a plan conformance determination many be made and no additional analysis would be needed. A recent procedure now being implemented by the BLM is called a determination of NEPA adequacy (DNA) in which an action is examined in the light of existing NEPA documents to determine if NEPA requirements have been met.
3. An *environmental assessment* (EA) is prepared to assess the effects of actions that are not exempt from NEPA, are not categorically excluded, and are not covered by an existing environmental document. An EA is prepared to determine if a proposed action or alternative will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In an effort to save paper and printing costs environmental assessments will be available on our website for your review and comment. If you desire a paper copy please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail.
4. Major proposals the will significantly affect the environment and that have not been previously analyzed through and *environmental impact statement* (EIS) require that an EIS be prepared.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA—Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area

BO—Biological Opinion

CE—Categorical Exclusion—Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

EA – Environmental Assessment – A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

GFMA—General Forest Management Area

IDT—Interdisciplinary Team—A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR—Late-Successional Reserves—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands—One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the *Northwest Forest Plan*. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area.

MBF—thousand board feet.

MMBF—million board feet

NEPA—National Environmental Policy Act—A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review, and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

RMP—Resource Management Plan—A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Scoping—An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements.

ASHLAND RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

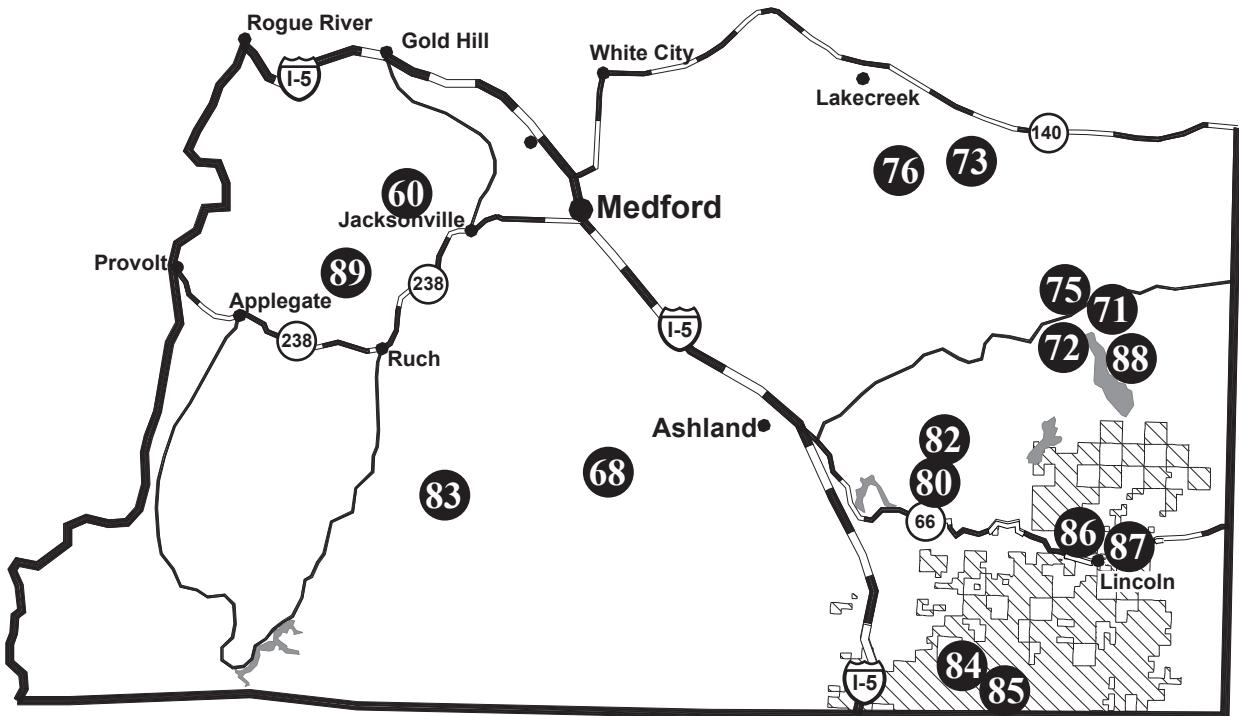
NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	
60. TIMBER MTN RECREATION PLAN/EIS (Draft) An activity level recreation plan managing OHV use.	West of Jacksonville	Complete	Complete	Completed May 13, 2009	Kristi Mastrofini
68. WAGNER ANDERSON PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Wagner Creek Watershed	Complete	Complete	Spring 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
71. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate a grazing lease for the Deadwood allotment.	East and South of Howard Prairie Reservoir	Complete	Complete	Spring 2010	Steve Slavik
72. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate a grazing lease for the Howard Prairie allotment.	North of Howard Prairie Reservoir	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Summer 2010	Steve Slavik
73. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Heppsie Mountain allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Complete	Complete	Complete	Steve Slavik
75. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION EA: Proposal to evaluate Conde Creek allotment grazing lease.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Complete	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010
76. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate grazing leases in the Lake Creek Spring, Lake Creek Summer, Deer Creek-Reno allotments.	Little Butte Creek Watershed	Spring 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Steve Slavik

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	
80. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate Cove Creek allotment grazing lease.	Sampson Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Revised EA Winter 2010	Steve Slavik
82. SAMPSON COVE PROJECT EA. A forest management treatment for the maintenance of sustainable forest production.	Upper Bear Creek Watershed	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Summer 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
83. GRAZING LEASE AUTHORIZATION: Proposal to evaluate the Lower Big Applegate allotment.	Applegate Watershed	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Summer 2010	Steve Slavik
84. SODA MOUNTAIN COMMUNICATION SITE PLAN EA. A comprehensive communication site management plan for the Soda Mountain Communication Site.	Soda Mountain	Winter 2010	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Kathy Minor/Joe Hoppe
85. SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN. A plan for managing the Soda Mountain Wilderness.	Southeast of Ashland	Spring 2010	Winter 2010/11	Spring 2011	Summer 2011
86. CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN EA. A comprehensive transportation management plan to evaluate the road network within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and determine transportation, restoration, and protection needs.	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, southeast of Ashland to the California border	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Kathy Minor
87. CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND EXCHANGE EA. Two land exchanges identified in P.L. 111-011-Land Tenure Actions.	East of Ashland, near Lincoln	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Kathy Minor/ Mary Johnson

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	
88. OR 65809 Right-of-Way E.A. A proposal to evaluate a request for right-of-way (including new road construction) across BLM to access private land.	East side of Howard Prairie Reservoir	Complete	Spring 2010	Summer 2010	Kristi Mastrofini
89. Reciprocal Right-of-Way E.A. A proposal to amend an existing M-660 Reciprocal Agreement to allow new road construction on BLM administered land in order to access private property.	Forest Creek Watershed	Ongoing	Ongoing	Spring 2010	Kristi Mastrofini

Spring 2010



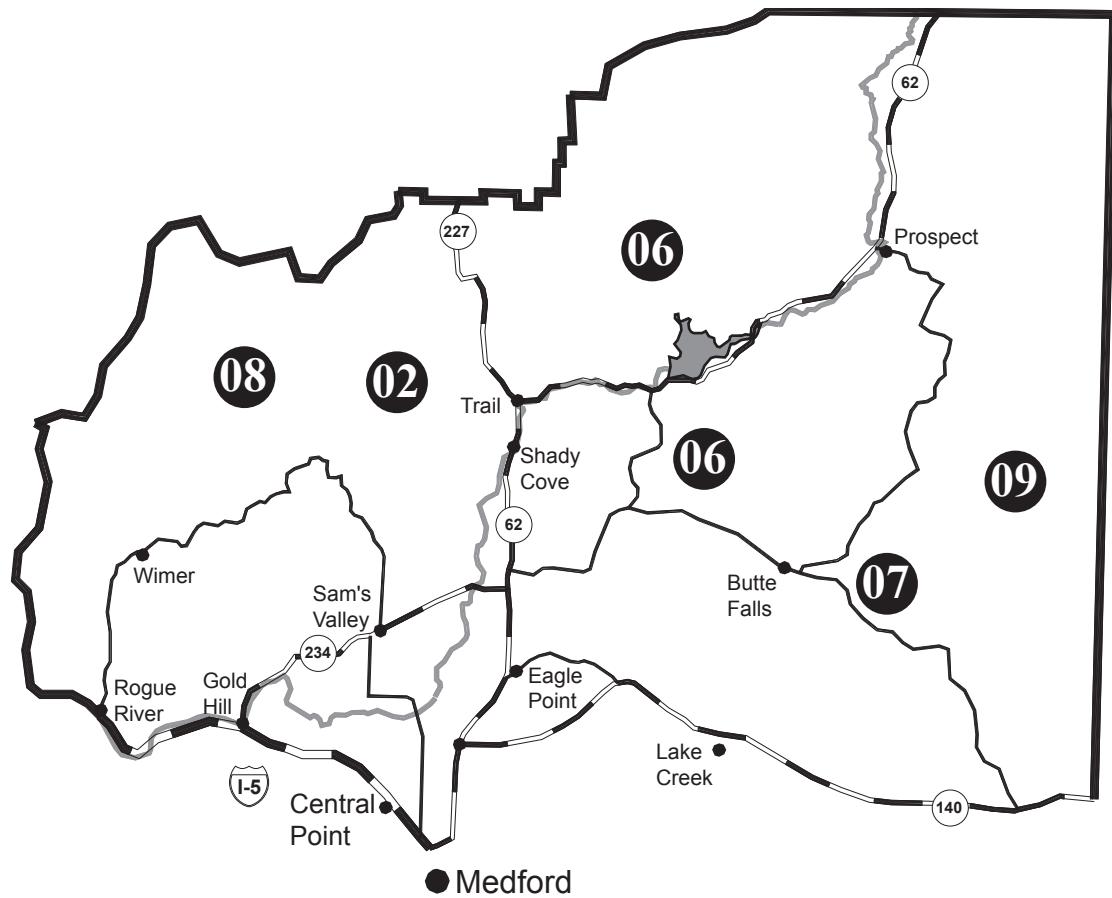
Ashland Resource Area Projects

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 Timber Mtn Recreation Plan/EIS 68 Wagner Anderson Project EA 71 Grazing Lease Renewal--Deadwood 72 Grazing Lease Renewal--Howard Prairie 73 Grazing Lease Renewal--Heppsie Mt. 75 Grazing Lease Renewal--Conde Creek 76 Grazing Lease Renewal--Lake Creek, Spring and Summer, and Deer Creek Reno 80 Grazing Lease Renewal--Cove Creek | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82 Sampson Cove EA 83 Grazing Lease Renewal--Lower Big Applegate 84 Soda Mtn Communication Site Plan EA 85 Soda Mtn Wilderness Plan EA 86 CSNM Transportation Management Plan EA 87 CSNM Land Exchange Ea (Deerfield/Rowlett) 88 OR65809 Right-of-way EA 89 Reciprocal Right-of-Way EA |
|--|---|

**BUTTE FALLS RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
MEDFORD DISTRICT • 3040 BIDDLE ROAD • MEDFORD, OREGON 97504**

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED			CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	
6. FLAT CREEK & SUMMIT PRAIRIE ALLOTMENTS 10 YEAR GRAZING AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL EA	T32S, R1E; T33S, R1E; T32S, R1W; T33S, R1W; T33S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T34S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T35S, R2E, R3E	Spring 2004	Spring 2009	Summer 2009	Summer 2009 Robyn Wicks
7. TWIN RANCH FOREST MANAGEMENT EA	T34S, R3E, Sec. 35; T35S, R3E, Sec. 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 17, 19	January 2010	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010 Jean Williams
8. EVANS CREEK FOREST MANAGEMENT EA	T32S, R2W; T32S, R3W; T33S, R2W; T33S, R3W; TT33S, R4W; T34S, R2W; T34S, R3W; T34S, R4W; T35S, R4W; T36S, R4W	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Spring 2011 Jean Williams
9. RANCH STEW II EA (young stand and plantation thinning)	T33S, R2E, R3E; T34S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T35S, R1E, R2E, R3E; T36S, R2E, R3E	Fall 2009	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Spring 2010 Bill Ripley
					Spring 2010



02 Cable Right-of-Way EA

06 Flat Creek & Summit Prairie
Allotments 10-year Grazing
Authorization Renewal EA

07 Twin Ranch Forest Management EA

08 Evans Creek Forest Management EA

09 Ranch Stew II EA

GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
MEDFORD DISTRICT, 2164 NE SPALDING AVENUE, GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526

ACTION PROJECTS WITH DECISIONS, OR PROPOSED PROJECTS AND ANTICIPATED DECISION DATES

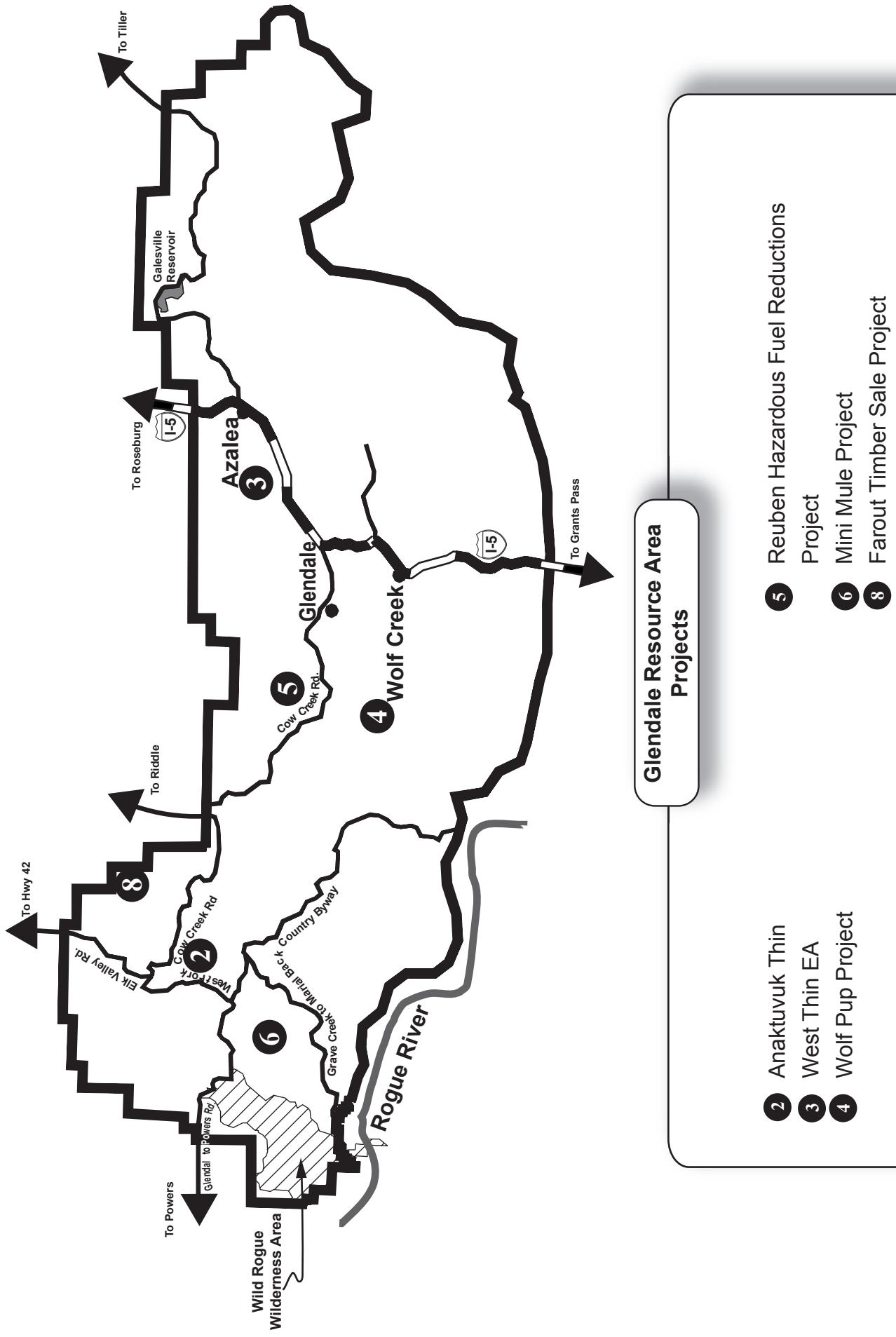
TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
2. ANAKTUVUK THIN PROJECT EA. Activities include commercial thinning approximately 145 acres of Douglas-fir plantations 39 to 48 years of age.	T32S, R9W, Sections 8, 9, 16- 18, 21	Completed	Completed	Completed	Fuels- June 2009; Timber Sale Sept 2009	Martin Lew
3. WEST THIN TIMBER SALE EA. Several timber sale and fuels reduction projects have already been implemented under the West Thin EA. The Fortune Branch Timber Sale includes commercial thinning a progeny test site and adjacent timber stand less than 80 years of age.	Middle Cow Creek Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	June 2010	Martin Lew
4. WOLF PUP PROJECT EA. Proposed activities include 352 acres of commercial thinning and road work. Created slash from harvesting would be removed for biomass or treated via lop-and -scatter and/or hand pile and pile burn.	T33S, R7W, Sections 10, 11, 13, 15, 25, 26, 35; T.33S R6W, Section 31; T34S, R7W, Section 1		Winter – Spring 2009	Summer 2009	To be determined	Michelle Calvert
5. REUBEN HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT EA. Proposed activities include 1,737 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments of which 768 acres would have biomass removal.	T32S, R7W, Sections 9, 15, 17, 19-21,25; T33S, R7W, Sections 3, 9, & 11		Winter 2009	Fall 2009	Jan 2010	Michelle Calvert

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
6. MINI MULE PROJECT EA. Proposed activities include 295 acres of commercial thinning in stands 40-80 years of age. Created slash from harvesting would be removed for biomass removal or treated via lop-and -scatter and/or hand pile and pile burn. Sections 4-6	T33S, R9W, Sections 15-23 and 27-33; T33S, R10W, Sections 13, 23-25, 35-36; and T34S, R9W, Sections 4-6	Completed	April 2010	Spring 2010	Michelle Calvert	Spring 2010

NEW PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED

TITLE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED		PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION DATE	CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS			
1. ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENTS AND HAULING PERMITS. Processing of individual requests from other public agencies and private parties for access through BLM managed lands.	Glendale Resource Area					Martin Lew
7. FIRE RESILIENCE EA. This project will be evaluating forest management activities to promote forest resiliency by restoring fire regimes to within natural ranges of variability through thinning and prescribed fire activities.	Glendale Resource Area					Martin Lew
8. FAROUT TIMBER SALE EA. The EA will be analyzing proposed timber harvest and forest management activities.	West Fork Cow Creek					Michelle Calvert

Spring 2010



GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA
SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
GRANTS PASS INTERAGENCY OFFICE—2164 NE SPALDING, GRANTS PASS, OREGON 97526

RECENT DECISIONS SIGNED OR PROJECTS DROPPED

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION	CONTACT
1. BRASS JOE / WATERBROOK RIGHT-OFF-WAY	T34S,R5W, Sec 23; T35S, R5W, Sec. 3	Decision signed March 3, 2010				Tony Kerwin
2. CHINA GARDEN INDIAN HILL ROW	T40S,R7W, Sec 13	Decision signed December 14, 2009				Jim Roper
8. ROGUE RIVER HELLGATE RECREATION SECTION RESTORATION PROJECT	Rogue River-Hellgate Recreation Section	Decision signed September 25, 2009				Tony Kerwin

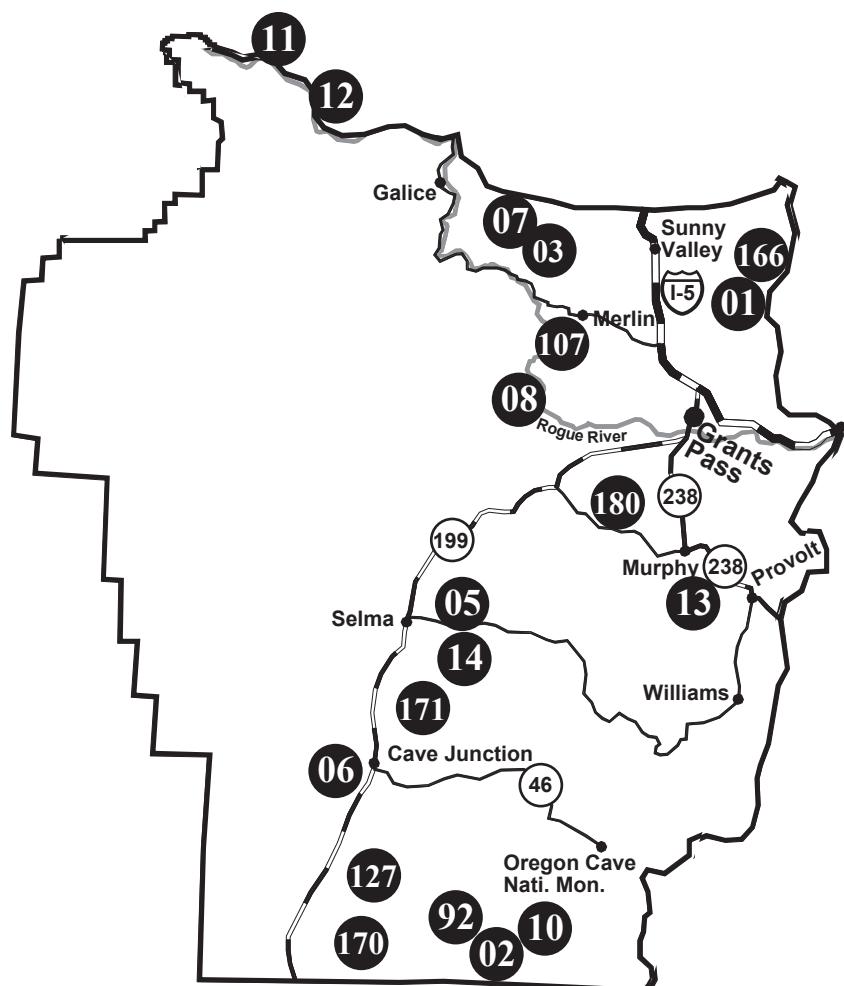
Spring 2010

NEW OR ON-GOING PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	DECISION	CONTACT
92. ALTHOUSE SUCKER LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Althouse and Sucker Creek Watersheds	Completed	Completed	Completed	Spring / Summer 2010	Dave Maurer
107. WILDLIFE IMAGES FLPMA LEASE	T35S,R7W, Sec 25,36	On Hold				Tony Kerwin
127. FRENCH FLAT ACEC MANAGEMENT PLAN	T40S,R8W, Sec 10,15	Completed	Spring 2010	N/A	N/A	Susan Fritts
166. GRANITE JOE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	North of Grants Pass	Completed	Completed	On hold	On hold	John Schneider
170. EAST FORK ILLINOIS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	East Fork Illinois River	Completed	Completed	Completed	Spring / Summer 2010	Jon Raybourn
171. TENNESSEE LIME LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Kerby area	Completed	Completed	Completed	Spring / Summer 2010	Robin Taylor
180. CHENEY SLATE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT	Lower Applegate River Watershed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Decision 1 completed; Decision 2 on timber sale	Tony Kerwin
					Summer 2010	

PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PROPOSED DATES			CONTACT
		SCOPING	ANALYSIS	PUBLIC REVIEW	
3. QUARTZ CREEK OHV MANAGEMENT PLAN	Jumpoff Joe & Rogue Recreation Section Watersheds	Completed	Spring 2010	Spring / Summer 2010	Summer 2010 Jeanne Klein
5. DEER NORTH TIMBER SALE	Deer Creek Watershed	Completed	Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Winter 2011 Tony Kerwin
6. EAST WEST JUNCTION TIMBER SALE	Lower Illinois River Watershed	Completed	Summer/Fall 2010	Fall/Winter 2010	Winter/Spring 2010/2011 Tony Kerwin
7. QUARTZ CENTENNIAL TIMBER SALE	Jumpoff Joe, Rogue Recreation Section & Grave Creek Watersheds	Completed	On hold		Mike Mathews
9. GPPA PROGRAMMATIC FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION FY 2009-2013	Grants Pass Resource Area	Completed	Summer 2009	Spring 2010	Summer 2010 Jon Larson
10. TRACY MINING PLAN OF OPERATIONS	Sucker Creek Watershed	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010 Tony Kerwin
11. WINKLE BAR MANAGEMENT PLAN	Rogue Wild and Scenic River	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010 Mike Mathews
12. ROGUE RIVER TRAIL MAINTENANCE	Rogue Wild and Scenic River	Winter 2010	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Spring 2010 Mike Mathews
13. CLARY-MEEHAN ROW	Lower Applegate River	Completed	Completed	Winter 2010	Winter 2010 Mike Mathews
14. McMULLIN CREEK – INDIAN HILL ROW	Deer Creek Watershed	Completed	Winter 2010	Spring 2010	Summer 2010 Tony Kerwin

Spring 2010



Grants Pass Resource Area Projects

- 01 Brass Joe/Waterbrook Right of Way
- 02 Indian Hill Right of Way
- 03 Quartz Creek OHV Plan
- 05 Deer North Timber Sale
- 06 East West Junction Timber Sale
- 07 Quartz Centennial Timber Sale
- 08 Rogue River Recreation Section Restoration Project
- 10 Tracy Mining Plan of Operations
- 11 Winkle Bar Management Plan
- 12 Rogue River Trail Maintenance
- 13 Clary-Meehan ROW
- 14 McMullin Creek-Indian Hill ROW
- 92 Althouse Sucker Forest Management Project EA
- 107 Wildlife Images R&PP Lease EA
- 127 French Flat ACEC Management Plan EA
- 166 Granite Joe Landscape Mgt Project EA
- 170 East Fork Illinois Landscape Management Project EA
- 171 Tennessee Lime
- 180 Cheney Slate Landscape Mgt Proj. EA

Please send me additional information on the following project(s):



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